

## IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An isolator to be used in a suspension system for a vehicle having  
generally parallel first and second axles, the isolator comprising:
  - a front shaft generally parallel to said first and second axles;
  - a rear shaft generally parallel to said first and second axles;
  - means for attaching said front shaft and said rear shaft to the vehicle, said front shaft and rear shaft being rotatable relative to said attaching means;
  - a front transitional arm attached to said front shaft;
  - a rear transitional arm attached to said rear shaft;
  - a resilient member attached to said front transitional arm and attached to said rear transitional arm;
  - a front link arm attached to said front shaft;
  - a rear link arm attached to said rear shaft;
  - wherein when force is applied to said front link arm, said front shaft and said front transitional arm rotate and said resilient member is compressed or expanded; and
  - wherein when force is applied to said rear link arm, said rear shaft and said rear transitional arm rotate and said resilient member is compressed or expanded.
2. (Original) An isolator as defined in claim 1, wherein
  - said front transitional arm is a slack adjuster and said rear transitional arm is a slack adjuster;
  - said front transitional arm being capable of rotation relative to said front shaft; and

said rear transitional arm being capable of rotation relative to said rear shaft.

3. (Original) An isolator as defined in claim 2, further including:

a shaft aperture within said front transitional arm having a spline therein;

a shaft aperture within said rear transitional arm having a spline therein;

a spline on at least a portion of said front shaft;

a spline on at least a portion of said rear shaft;

wherein said portion of said front shaft is positioned within said shaft aperture in said front transitional arm and said spline on said front shaft mates with said spline of said front transitional arm; and

wherein said portion of said rear shaft is positioned within said shaft aperture in said rear transitional arm and said spline on said rear shaft mates with said spline of said rear transitional arm.

4. (Original) An isolator as defined in claim 2, further including:

a front transitional arm adjustment associated with said front transitional arm for rotating said front transitional arm relative to said front shaft; and

a rear transitional arm adjustment associated with said rear transitional arm for rotating said rear transitional arm relative to said rear shaft.

5. (Original) An isolator as defined in claim 1, wherein said resilient member is an air bag.

6. (Original) An isolator as defined in claim 5, wherein said front transitional arm further includes a front air bag attachment bracket and said rear transitional arm further includes a rear air bag attachment bracket and wherein an air bag aperture is provided through one of said air bag attachment brackets.

7. (Original) An isolator as defined in claim 6, further including an air hose connectec to said air bag aperture.

8. (Original) An isolator as defined in claim 5, wherein said front transitional arm further includes at least one rearward extending safety stop and wherein said rear transitional arm further includes at least one forward extending safety stop.

9. (Currently Amended) An isolator ~~as defined in claim 1, wherein said~~ to be used in a suspension system for a vehicle, the isolator comprising:

a front shaft;

a rear shaft;

means for attaching said front shaft and said rear shaft to the vehicle, said front shaft and rear shaft being rotatable relative to said attaching means;

a front transitional arm is fixedly attached to said front shaft; and wherein said

a rear transitional arm is fixedly attached to said rear shaft;

a resilient member attached to said front transitional arm and attached to said rear transitional arm;

a front link arm attached to said front shaft;

a rear link arm attached to said rear shaft;

wherein when force is applied to said front link arm, said front shaft and said front transitional arm rotate and said resilient member is compressed or expanded; and

wherein when force is applied to said rear link arm, said rear shaft and said rear transitional arm rotate and said resilient member is compressed or expanded.

10. (Currently Amended) An isolator as defined in claim 1, further including:

a front shackle mounted to said front ~~spring-link~~ link arm, and

a rear shackle mounted to said rear ~~spring-link~~ link arm.

11. (Original) An isolator as defined in claim 10, wherein said front shackle and said rear shackle can be exchanged for an alternative front shackle and rear shackle.

12. (Currently Amended) An isolator as defined in claim 1, wherein said attaching means includes:

a bearing ~~bearings~~ mounted proximate each end ~~ends~~ of said front shaft; and

a bearing ~~bearings~~ mounted proximate each end ~~ends~~ of said rear shaft.

13. (Original) An isolator as defined in claim 12, wherein said bearings are tapered.

14. (Currently Amended) An isolator ~~as defined in claim 1, wherein said attaching means~~  
~~includes to be used in a suspension system for a vehicle. the isolator comprising:~~  
a front shaft:  
a rear shaft:  
 an inner bearing plate mounted proximate inner ends of said front and rear shafts ~~and;~~ and  
 an outer bearing plate mounted proximate outer ends of said front and rear shafts for attaching  
said front shaft and said rear shaft to the vehicle. said front shaft and rear shaft being rotatable  
relative to said inner and outer bearing plates:  
a front transitional arm attached to said front shaft;  
a rear transitional arm attached to said rear shaft;  
a resilient member attached to said front transitional arm and attached to said rear  
transitional arm:  
a front link arm attached to said front shaft;  
a rear link arm attached to said rear shaft;  
wherein when force is applied to said front link arm, said front shaft and said front  
transitional arm rotate and said resilient member is compressed or expanded; and  
wherein when force is applied to said rear link arm, said rear shaft and said rear  
transitional arm rotate and said resilient member is compressed or expanded.

15. (Original) A suspension system for a vehicle having a frame a front axle and a rear axle, the  
 suspension system comprising:

a front leaf spring having a first end and a second end, said first end being attached to the frame of the vehicle and supporting a front axle;

a rear leaf spring having a first end and a second end, said first end being attached to the frame of the vehicle and supporting a rear axle;

an isolator including:

a front shaft;

a rear shaft;

means for attaching said front shaft and said rear shaft to the vehicle, said front shaft and rear shaft being rotatable relative to said attaching means;

a front transitional arm attached to said front shaft;

a rear transitional arm attached to said rear shaft;

a resilient member attached said front transitional arm and attached to said rear transitional arm;

a front link arm attached to said front shaft;

a rear link arm attached to said rear shaft;

a front shackle attached to said front link arm and to said front leaf spring;

a rear shackle attached to said rear link arm and to said rear leaf spring;

wherein when force is applied to said front leaf spring, said front link arm, said front shaft, and said front transitional arm rotate and said resilient member is compressed or expanded; and

wherein when force is applied to said rear leaf spring, said rear leaf spring, said rear shaft, and said rear transitional arm rotate and said resilient member is compressed or expanded.

16. (Original) A suspension system as defined in claim 15, wherein  
said front transitional arm is a slack adjuster and said rear transitional arm is a slack  
adjuster;  
said front transitional arm being capable of rotation relative to said front shaft; and  
said rear transitional arm being capable of rotation relative to said rear shaft.
17. (Original) A suspension system as defined in claim 16, further including:  
a shaft aperture within said front transitional arm having a spline therein;  
a shaft aperture within said rear transitional arm having a spline therein;  
a spline on at least a portion of said front shaft;  
a spline on at least a portion of said rear shaft;  
wherein said portion of said front shaft is positioned within said shaft aperture in said  
front transitional arm and said spline on said front shaft mates with said spline of said front  
transitional arm; and  
wherein said portion of said rear shaft is positioned within said shaft aperture in said rear  
transitional arm and said spline on said rear shaft mates with said spline of said rear transitional  
arm.
18. (Original) A suspension system as defined in claim 15, further including:  
a front transitional arm adjustment associated with said front transitional arm for rotating  
said front transitional arm relative to said front shaft;

a rear transitional arm adjustment associated with said rear transitional arm for rotating said rear transitional arm relative to said rear shaft; and

wherein upon rotation of said front transitional arm relative to said front shaft, said front leaf spring moves upward or downward and upon rotation of said rear transitional arm relative to said rear shaft, said rear leaf spring moves upward or downward.

19. (Original) A suspension system as defined in claim 15, wherein said front transitional arm is fixedly attached to said front shaft and wherein said rear transitional arm is fixedly attached to said rear shaft.

20. (Original) A suspension system as defined in claim 15, wherein said resilient member is an air bag.

21. (Original) A suspension system as defined in claim 20, further including a fill valve in fluid communication with said air bag.

22. (Original) A suspension system as defined in claim 20, further including an air pressure gauge in fluid communication with said air spring.

23. (Original) A method for adjusting the ride height of a vehicle having a frame comprising the steps of:

providing a suspension system including:



a front leaf spring having a first end and a second end, said first end being attached to the frame of the vehicle;

a rear leaf spring having a first end and a second end, said first end being attached to the frame of the vehicle;

an isolator including:

a front shaft,

a rear shaft,

a front transitional arm attached to said front shaft,

a rear transitional arm attached to said rear shaft,

a resilient member attached to said front transitional arm and attached to said rear transitional arm,

a front link arm attached to said front shaft,

a rear link arm attached to said rear shaft,

a front shackle attached to said front link arm and to said second end of said front leaf spring;

a rear shackle attached to said rear link arm and to said second end of said rear leaf spring;

lengthening or shortening the front spring shackle and the rear spring shackle to achieve the desired ride height.

24. (Original) A method for adjusting the ride height of a vehicle having a frame comprising the steps of:

providing a suspension system including:

a front leaf spring having a first end and a second end, said first end being attached to the frame of the vehicle;

a rear leaf spring having a first end and a second end, said first end being attached to the frame of the vehicle;

an isolator including:

a front shaft,

a rear shaft,

a front transitional arm attached to said front shaft,

a rear transitional arm attached to said rear shaft,

a resilient member attached to said front transitional arm and attached to said rear transitional arm,

a front link arm attached to said front shaft,

a rear link arm attached to said rear shaft,

a front shackle attached to said front link arm and to said second end of said front leaf spring;

a rear shackle attached to said rear link arm and to said second end of said rear leaf spring;

rotating said front transitional arm relative to said front shaft to raise or lower said front leaf spring; and

rotating said rear transitional arm relative to said rear shaft to raise or lower said rear leaf spring.

25. (New) An isolator to be used in a suspension system for a vehicle having a first axle supported by a first spring and a second axle supported by a second spring, the isolator comprising:

a resilient member;

a first shaft operatively connected to said front spring and said resilient member, wherein said first shaft rotates in response to forces applied to or removed from said first spring;

a second shaft operatively connected to said rear spring and said resilient member, wherein said second shaft rotates in response to forces applied to or removed from said second spring; and

wherein rotation of said first and second shaft transfers said forces to said resilient member and causes said resilient member to expand or contract.